

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WILF
FAMILY AND THE PANTIRER
FAMILY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two notable New Jersey families, the Wilfs and the Pantirers, as they are honored by the Anti-Defamation League at their Centennial Celebration. Both of these families have survived significant hardships and have made impressive contributions to their communities. They continue to embody the mission of the Anti-Defamation League and are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Enduring much loss and suffering in Poland before and during the Holocaust, the Wilfs experienced firsthand the effects of anti-Semitism and they have dedicated their lives to fighting religious intolerance. Since immigrating to the United States in 1954, the Wilf family has been a prominent business and philanthropic leader in New Jersey. Each successive generation has continued the commitment to improving the lives of Jewish people begun by Harry, Joseph and Oscar. For nearly 50 years, the Wilf Family Foundation has provided more than \$100 million to support various institutions. The family also continues to be a major contributor of the Holocaust History Museum and Yeshiva University in New York.

After losing his parents and siblings to the war, Murray Pantirer attributed his survival to Schindler's List, never learning how or why his name was included. In 1949, he emigrated to the United States with his wife Lushka "Lucy" Lorber Pantirer, who also endured suffering and loss along with her family in labor camps during the Holocaust. The Pantirers found business success in America with their real-estate development firm, which is still family owned three generations later. Throughout their successes, the Pantirers have remained committed to serving their community. Murray in particular was especially active in preserving the memory of Holocaust victims and inspiring younger generations to continue Jewish traditions and legacy.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in honoring the Wilf family and the Pantirer family for their immeasurable contributions to the community and congratulating them on their recognition by the Anti-Defamation League. For 100 years, the Anti-Defamation League has been a leader in the fight against discrimination and continues to work toward a fair and just world for all.

HONORING MICHAEL J. SMITH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Hutto, TX City Councilman Michael J. Smith. Michael was awarded a coveted place on the Walk of Fame at Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio, TX which is the world's first theme park designed with special-needs individuals in mind yet built to be enjoyed by everyone.

Michael thought he would pursue a law-enforcement career after graduating from Texas

A&M University. After seeing the condition of facilities for adults with special needs he realized changes had to be made and committed his energies to being of service.

He opened Beyond the Limits, an award-winning day habilitation center where adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities gather to learn social and life skills that can be used at home, in the community, or in the workplace. Along with being a catalyst for change in the special-needs community, the center's cardboard-recycling efforts have earned recognition from the State of Texas Alliance for Recycling and Keep Texas Beautiful.

Michael's activism doesn't stop there. In addition to his duties as a Councilman, he works closely with the Texas legislature to promote legislation that benefits adults with disabilities by providing support and assistance to them and their families.

Michael J. Smith's commitment to advocacy and service reflects the best values of Central Texas. I applaud his work and wish him success as he continues to be a champion for the special-needs community.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II
VETERANS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and determination of a group of fellow soldiers who served during World War II during the liberation of France. The following men from my home state of Mississippi deserve the highest honor for their service: Thomas Creekmore of Ocean Springs; Gerald Campbell of Gulfport; Jack Carver of Belzoni; William S. Fuller of Vicksburg; Edsol C. Wells of Lauderdale; Joseph J. Coscia of Southaven; Joseph R. Johnson of Columbus; James F. Robinson of Aberdeen; Malcolm L. Jones of Hazlehurst; and Harry C. Quinn of Madison; and William W. Correll of Madison.

These brave men risked their lives for the hope of bringing liberty and freedom to the people of France, and they went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure their hope became a reality. Without their efforts, our mission of winning World War II would not have been possible. On September 24th, the Consul General of France, Denis Barbet, will present the French Legion of Honor Award, France's highest military honor, to these worthy veterans.

Our soldiers deserve the utmost respect from all of those they protect. I ask that my colleagues here in Washington and the American people take a moment to thank these selfless men and women and continue to keep all of the brave men and women serving our nation in their thoughts and prayers.

CONGRATULATING WILLOW
SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Willow Springs High

School for being named a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School. Willow Springs was one of just 286 schools selected from across the country to receive this honor.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized for high levels of student achievement or for significant improvements in students' academic achievement. Willow Springs was named an Exemplary High Performing School. I am extremely proud of the hard work of the students, as well as the continued efforts of the faculty, parents, and community to ensure that students succeed and the achievement gap is closed. Willow Springs' students have scored at the top of national tests and assessments in reading and mathematics. Concentrated efforts on improving curriculum, instructional strategies, and assessment methods have clearly paid off.

This prestigious honor proves that every student can succeed and meet the high expectations that are set for them. I hope Willow Springs can serve as a model for other schools in my district and throughout the entire state of Missouri.

I look forward to the awards ceremony in November here in Washington, D.C. Again, I want to congratulate Willow Springs High School principal, Mrs. Jimalee James, and superintendent, Derrick Hutsell, for this great achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. L.J.
AND MRS. MELVA JEAN
HALBERT ON THE CELEBRATION
OF THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Halbert as they celebrate 60 years of togetherness. During this period, they have been blessed to have three children; Debra Patrice Halbert Evans, Michael A. Halbert and Jerome Halbert (deceased). They have also been fortunate to have four grandchildren; Patrice Imani Evans, William Samuel Evans III, William Samuel Evans, Jr., and Debra, Paris Elizabeth Halbert, Michael A. Halbert and Kristen Nicole Halbert (deceased), Jerome Halbert (deceased), and Georgette Halbert.

The Halberts have a loving, committed and enduring marriage that has been an inspiration to all who have known and observed them. Both of the Halberts have been blessed to have the love of their families, brothers and sisters; Perry Halbert (deceased), Bessie Lenoir, Dessie Amos, Lillie Pruitt (deceased), Ora D. McGavock (deceased), Joyce Wilburn, Cozine Prince, Charles McGee (deceased), Verdell McGee (deceased), and Leedall McGee, throughout the history of their marriage. Both Mr. L.J. and Mrs. Melva Jean have been cause-orientated and have devoted much of their lives to civic involvement through organizations like Stone Temple Baptist Church, Austin Lions Club, Westside Business Improvement Association, Organization for a better Austin, Chicago Teachers Union, Menard Ave Block club and many other groups and organizations.